

**REMARKS**

In response to the Patent Office Action of March 8, 2006, the Applicant respectfully requests reexamination and reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this application amendments have been made in the claims. Amendments have been made to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112. Also, amendments have been made in the claims to basically place all claims in condition for allowance. Claims that have been rejected on prior art have been amended in accordance with the indication of allowable subject matter by the Examiner.

In the Patent Office Letter the Examiner has objected to claims 21-50 for certain informalities. Appropriate amendments have been made in claims 23 and 26.

In the Patent Office Letter the Examiner has also presented a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 regarding claims 14-17 and 21-50. Further appropriate amendments have been made in claims 14, 21, 27, 32, 33, 34, 37 and 48. These amendments should overcome all of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 set forth by the Examiner.

In the Patent Office Letter the Examiner has presented a rejection of claim 14, 16, 21, 27, 32, 34 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §102. This rejection is believed to be now moot in view of amendments made in these claims. For the most part, pertinent independent claims have been amended to include subject matter already indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Moreover, the Applicant has added further claims to the application, however, these claims are also believed to be based upon indications of allowable subject matter from the Examiner.

Claims 1-13 have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner and thus no further amendments have been made therein.

Although claim 14 has been amended, the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter in claims 15 and 17. The subject matter of claim 17 has now been added to claim 14 and claim 17 has been canceled. This should thus place all of claims 14-16 in allowable condition.

Claims 18-20 have been indicated as allowed by the Examiner. Accordingly, no further amendments have been made in claims 18-20.

Although claim 21 has been rejected by the Examiner, the subject matter of dependent claims have been indicated as allowable by the Examiner including the subject matter of claim 31. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 31 has been added to claim 21. Accordingly, all of claims 21-30, 32 and 33 should be found in condition for allowance.

Although claim 34 has been rejected, there has been an indication of allowable subject matter relating to several of the dependent claims to claim 34. Accordingly, claim 34 has been amended to introduce the subject matter of claim 40 into claim 34. This should place claim 34 and its related dependent claims all in allowable condition.

Claim 36 was also indicated as containing allowable subject matter and has thus also been amended into independent form and should thus also clearly be in condition for allowance.

Claims 48-50 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicant has made corrections to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 and thus claims 48-50 should be in condition for allowance.

The Applicant has also added hereto claims 51-61. Claim 51 is an independent claim and claims 52-61 are dependent claims. Claim 51 contains substantially the same limitations as found in allowable claim 48 and should thus clearly be in condition for allowance. It is noted that this claim includes the limitation that the boot support members extend rearwardly forming a platform on which the boot sole rests. This subject matter has been indicated as allowable subject matter by the Examiner in his Office Action. The Examiner is directed to the indication of allowable subject matter in the previous Office Action on page six at the bottom paragraph relating to comments pertaining to claims 48-50.

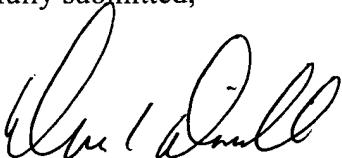
Accordingly, it is believed that all claims in this application are in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims pending in the above-identified application are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the present application is found by the Examiner not to be in condition for allowance, then the Applicants hereby request a telephone or personal interview to facilitate the resolution of any remaining matters. Applicants' attorney may be contacted by telephone at the number indicated below to schedule such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David M. Driscoll  
Registration No. 25,075  
1201 Canton Avenue  
Milton, MA 02186  
Telephone: (617)333-0925  
Facsimile: (617)333-0925

Dated: June 5, 2006